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B I G G L E S W A D E R U R A L D I S T R I C T .
C O U N C I L .

A N N U A L R E P O R T

FOR THE YEAR 1957

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R

O F H E A L T H

and

P U B L I C H E A L T H I N S P E C T O R .

B I G G L E S W A D E R U R A L D I S T R I C T

C O U N C I L .

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1957

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

and

P U B L I C H E A L T H I N S P E C T O R

P U B L I C H E A L T H S T A F F .

Medical Officer of Health:

C.A. HARVY, M.B., C.H.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

H.W. PRIDMORE, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A., M.R.S.I.,
as Sanitary Inspector and Meat and Foods Inspector.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

(a) P.E. Miller, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

(b) C.R. Southgate, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. (Residned April,
1957.

(c) K.D. Ballard, M.S.I.A., M.R.S.I.

(d) K.F. Keegan, M.R.S.I.

Clerks:

(d) Miss D. Anderson (Shorthand-Typist)

(e) Miss J. Bonfield (Clerk) Resigned September, 1957.

(f) I. Roddie (Pupil-Public Health Inspector.)

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1957

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE

BIGGLESWADE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the report on the Public Health conditions appertaining to the area for 1957.

The statistics show that the death rate and infant mortality rate are again lower than the comparable rates for England and Wales, and that the birth rate is again higher than that for the Country as a whole. As in previous years, diseases of the heart and circulatory system are the major causes of death, with deaths from cancer holding second place. Of the 24 deaths of all forms of cancer in men, eight were attributable to cancer of the lung.

During the year, sanction was given for the commencement of the sewerage of Henlow and Langford parishes and it is hoped that the other parishes mentioned in 1956 Report may also have schemes approved.

Measles and Whooping Cough were prevalent in the district during the year but no deaths were recorded from either of these diseases. One case of Paralytic Poliomyelitis occurred in a woman of 24 years and she has been left with some considerable residual paralysis.

I have to acknowledge with thanks the continuous co-operation and assistance which I have received from the Officials of the Council and their staffs.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

C.A. HARVEY,

Medical Officer of Health.

(2)

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres) 49,152
Registrar-General's estimate of Population 26,920
Number of inhabited houses end of 1957 .. 7,333
Rateable Value £210,919.
Sum represented by a penny rate £902.3.11.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

<u>LIVE BIRTHS:</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	209	219	428
Illegitimate	12	10	22
	<u>221</u>	<u>229</u>	<u>450</u>

Crude birth rate per 1,000 Home Population ... 16.7
Adjusted birth rate per 1,000 Home Population 18.2
Birth Rate for England and Wales 16.1

<u>STILL BIRTHS:</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	8	11	19
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>8</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>19</u>

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total Births 40.5
Still Birth Rate for England and Wales 22.4

<u>DEATHS:</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
All causes	161	175	336
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Home Population ...	12.5		
Adjusted Death Rate per 1,000 Home Population	9.4		
Death Rate for England and Wales	11.5		
Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and child birth:			
From Sepsis	0		
From other causes ...	0		

0

(3)

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE:

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	1	6	7
Illegitimate	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
	1	6	7

Rate for all infants per 1,000 live births ... 22.2

Rate for England and Wales 23.0

DEATHS FROM:-

Measles (all ages)	—
Whooping Cough	—
Influenza	4
Cancer (all ages)	42

STATISTICAL TABLE 1948 - 1957

Year	DEATH RATE		BIRTH RATE		INFANT MORTALITY RATE	
	Biggleswade R.D.	England & Wales	Biggleswade R.D.	England & Wales	Biggleswade R.D.	England & Wales
1948	10.8	10.8	16.86	17.9	29.18	34
1949	9.7	11.7	16.4	16.7	10.9	32
1950	10.2	11.7	15.0	15.8	20.5	29
1951	8.7	12.5	11.7	15.5	28.6	29.6
1952	9.1	11.3	13.4	15.3	25.0	27.6
1953	10.6	11.4	14.4	15.5	15.9	26.8
1954	12.2	11.3	15.9	15.2	25.5	25.5
1955	13.2	11.7	14.2	15.0	8.0	24.9
1956	11.4	11.7	16.2	15.7	17.2	23.8
1957	9.4	11.5	16.7	16.1	22.2	23.0

(4)

CAUSES OF DEATH

The following table shows causes of death as given in the Registrar-General's statistics:-

<u>Causes of Death</u>							<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
All Causes							161	175
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory						1	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other						-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease						-	1
4.	Diphtheria						-	-
5.	Whooping Cough						-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections						-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis						-	-
8.	Measles						-	-
9.	Other infective and parastic diseases						2	1
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach						3	2
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus						8	2
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast						-	2
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus						-	2
14.	Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms						11	12
15.	Leukaemia, aleuknemia						2	1
16.	Diabetes						1	4
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system						19	15
18.	Coronary disease, angina						30	19
19.	Hypertension with heart disease						8	4
20.	Other heart disease						22	52
21.	Other circulatory disease						5	1
22.	Influenza						1	3
23.	Pneumonia						5	11
24.	Bronchitis						8	4
25.	Other disease of respiratory system						1	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum						2	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea						-	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis						3	2
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate						3	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion						-	-
31.	Congenital malformations						3	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases						11	29
33.	Motor vehicle accidents						4	-
34.	All other accidents						5	4
35.	Suicide						3	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war						-	-

(5)

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES:

1. Laboratory Facilities.

The services of the Public Health Laboratory, General Hospital, Kimbolton Road, Bedford, is available for the examination of any material submitted by the Health Department or by General Practitioners. This service is under the direction of the Medical Research Council through the Ministry of Health, and there is no charge to the Council. The laboratory undertakes the examination of throat swabs, sputum, urine and faeces, and blood from all cases of suspected infectious disease, and advice and assistance is always available.

2. Ambulance Facilities.

The Bedfordshire County Council provides a complete service covering the whole of the County. The service is a twenty-four hour one and is free of charge, and is available for the removal of all cases requiring admission to hospital and also for the transport of patients who are unable to use other means of transport to and from Hospitals or Clinics, so that they can receive any necessary treatment. The request for the provision of an ambulance must be made by a General Practitioner or by an Authorised Person.

The service is also available for transport of persons suffering from infectious disease to isolation hospital.

The following depots are situated in the eastern and northern districts of the County:-

Biggleswade	...	Crab Lane	...	Tel. Biggleswade	2295.
Bedford	...	Bedford Road,	"	Bedford	5335 &
		Kempston.			5336.

3. Midwifery and Domiciliary Nursing Services.

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council became the responsible authority for these services, the day to day administration being under the Eastern Divisional Health Committee.

The following is a list of the nurses and their districts:-

Midwifery and Domiciliary Nursing Services (Cont'd).

<u>District</u>	<u>Name and Address of Nurse</u>	<u>Tel. No.</u>
Blunham Mogerhanger Sandy Tempsford	Miss H.W. Pearse, 68 St. Neots Road, Sandy.	Sandy 105.
Biggleswade Dunton Edworth (Midwifery only)	Miss M.P. Stafford, 17 Saffron Road, Biggleswade.	Biggleswade 3266.
Cockayne Hatley Everton Eyeworth Potton Sutton Wrestlingworth	Miss F.C. Bishop, 11 Festival Road, Potton.	Potton 234.
Biggleswade Dunton Edworth (General Nursing only)	Miss E. Dillistone, 2 High Street, Biggleswade.	Biggleswade 3177.
Astwick Stotfold	Mrs. P.R. Corns, 143 Vaughan Road, Stotfold.	Stotfold 372.
Clifton Henlow	Miss A.H. Peddie, 31 High Street, Henlow.	Clifton 261.
Arlesey	Miss D.J. Peck, Chase Farm Road, Arlesey.	Arlesey 362.
Campton Chicksands Meppershall Shefford Upper Stondon	Miss D.M. Collie, 47 Southfields, Shefford.	Shefford 356.
Langford Old Warden Southill	Mrs. E.M. Wyer, 62 Stratton Way, Biggleswade.	Biggleswade 2028.

4. Clinics and Treatment Centres(a) Child Welfare Centres -

Arlesey	Methodist Schoolroom	Monday p.m. Fortnightly
Biggleswade	"The Lawns," Health Centre	Tuesday p.m. Weekly
Blunham	Village Hall	Thursday p.m. Every four weeks
Henlow	R.A.F. Camp	Thursday p.m. Weekly
Langford	Ivy Leaf Club	Thursday a.m. Fortnightly
Potton	Church Hall	Wednesday p.m. Fortnightly
Sandy	Church Room	Thursday p.m. Fortnightly
Shefford	Digswell House	Wednesday p.m. Weekly
Stotfold	Unionist Club	Monday p.m. Fortnightly
Tempsford	Stuart Memorial Hall	Thursday p.m. Every four weeks
Wrestlingworth	Memorial Hall	Tuesday p.m. Every four weeks

(b) Ante-Natal clinics -

Biggleswade	"The Lawns," Health Centre	Tuesday a.m. Fortnightly
Shefford	"Digswell House	Wednesday a.m. Fortnightly
Stotfold	Unionist Club	Monday a.m. Fortnightly

(c) Tuberculosis -

The Chest Clinic,
Bedford General Hospital, (North Wing),
Kimbolton Road,
Bedford.

The days and times of attendance are:-

Monday	2 - 2.30 p.m. & 6 - 6.30 p.m.	Refills (A.P. & P.P.)
Tuesday	9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. } 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. }	Women and children - new and old patients.
Wednesday	9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. 2 - 3.30 p.m. 3.30 p.m. to 5 p.m.	Contacts. Doctors Mini Film Clinic. To examine films sent by Factory Doctors.
Thursday	9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.	Males - old and new patients.

(8)

Clinics and Treatment Centres (Cont'd).

(d) Venereal Diseases Clinic -

Bedford General Hospital (South Wing).

The days and time of attendance are:-

Men and	Wednesday	5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Women	Friday	3 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Medical Officer in attendance:-

Wednesday 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Friday 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREAWater Supply

Water is supplied to the area by the Biggleswade Water Board and has proved very satisfactory in quality and quantity. Samples have been taken periodically during the year and the results have shown that the supply is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity.

The following report by the Counties Public Health Laboratories of a sample sent for examination on 18th January, 1957, is typical -

Chemical Examination in parts per Million

Appearance - Clear and Bright.	
Colour	Nil
Turbidity	Nil
Odour	Nil
Reaction pH. Neutral	7.3
Free Carbon Dioxide	18
Electric Conductivity at 20 degs. C.	365
Total Solids dried at 180 degs. C.	245
Chlorine present as Chlorides	13
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	160
Hardness. Total	195
Carbonate	160
Non Carbonate	35
Nitrate Nitrogen	0.0
Nitrite Nitrogen	0.01
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.000
Oxygen Absorbed	0.00
Albuminied Nitrogen	0.000
Residual Chlorine	Absent
Metals Iron	0.03
Other Metals	Absent
To convert to Ammonia multiply by 1.21.	

Bacteriological Examination

(Sampling bottles are treated to remove residual chlorine, if present).

Number of Colonies developing on Agar per cc. or ml. in

1 day at 37 degs. C. 0 per ml.
 2 days at 37 degs. C. 0 per ml.
 3 days at 20 degs. C. 0 per ml.

	<u>Present</u> <u>in</u>	<u>Absent</u> <u>from</u>	<u>Probable</u> <u>Number</u>
Presumptive Coliform-aerogenes Reaction	Ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli (Type 1.)	Ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Cl. Welchii Reaction	Ml.	100 ml.	

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water is moderately hard in character and it contains no excess of salinity of mineral constituents in solution. It is of the highest standard of organic purity.

From the aspect of a chemical analysis, these results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

31st January, 1957.

(11)

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS

(a) General Statistics

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year, together with the number of cases admitted to hospital and the deaths from these diseases.

Diseases, (other than Tuberculosis) notified during the year 1957.

Disease	Total cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total deaths registered
Scarlet Fever	10	-	-
Whooping Cough	143	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis			
- Paralytic	1	1	-
Measles	353	1	-
Dysentery	10	-	-
Pneumonia	22	-	-
Acute Encephalitis	1	-	-
Food Poisoning	16	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	-	-
Jaundice	2	-	-

(12)

ANALYSIS OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE
NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1957.

Disease	Under 1 Year		1 to 3		3 to 5		5 to 10		10 to 15		15 to 25		25 to 35		35 to 45		45 to 65		65 & up-wards		Total all ages
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	1	2	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Whooping Cough	2	5	22	15	10	12	38	35	2	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	113
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paralytic Measles	2	6	54	48	11	22	87	99	11	4	2	3	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	353
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	2	-	-	1	4	-	-	-	3	2	2	4	-	22
Dysentery	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	10
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Jaundice	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Acute Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	-	-	-	-	-	16

(13)

FOOD POISONING:

During the year, there was a small outbreak of food poisoning at the Royal Air Force Station, Henlow, in which a number of persons were affected with diarrhoea and vomiting about five hours after eating a meal which included a ham omelette. Other persons who did have this omelette were not affected. The duration of the illness was about 24 hours. Examination of the faeces of all persons affected and of all persons connected with the preparation of the meal gave negative results but nose swabs from six persons in the kitchen showed a growth of coagulase positive staphylococci and an examination of the remnants of the ham gave a similar finding.

These results suggested that the outbreak was due to Staphylococcal Enterotoxin.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA:

The County Council, under the National Health Service Act, 1946, provides this treatment free of charge through the family Doctor, or at School or a Child Welfare Centre. The figures have been supplied by the Eastern Divisional Medical Officer.

The number of cases of, and deaths from Diphtheria, have shown a remarkable decline since the introduction of immunisation, and no case has been notified in the district for several years. In order to ensure that outbreaks of this disease will not occur in the future, it is necessary that at least 75 per cent of all children under the age of 15 years should be protected effectively against the disease i.e., they should have had either a primary immunisation or a 'booster' injection within the last five years.

(14)

PROTECTION AGAINST WHODPING COUGH:

Since the 1st November, 1956, the County Council have made facilities available for the protection against Whooping Cough of young children who have not had the disease, and whose parents are desirous of having such protection given to their children. The Whooping Cough vaccine can be given alone, or in combination with Diphtheria Prophylactic.

Primary Immunisation during 1957

Born	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1948	1943-	Total
Age at	under	1	2	3	4	-1952	1947	under
31.12.57	1					5-9	10-14	15
	164	77	43	14	4	33	2	337

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS:

The County Council scheme for the registration and vaccination against Poliomyelitis for the age groups of children as laid down by the Ministry of Health was continued through the Eastern Divisional Medical Officer who has stated that the number of children registered was about 30 per cent of all children eligible which is similar to the figures for the County as a whole.

At the end of 1957 in the whole of the Eastern Division, 1,044 children had received two injections and 210 had received one injection.

(15)

TUBERCULOSIS

The following table shows the number of new cases and the number of deaths in their age groups.

Age Distribution of Cases and Deaths

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under								
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
45	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	2	2	-	1	1	-	-	-

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis)
Regulations, 1925.

No action was taken under these regulations.

C.A. HARVEY,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

"The Lawns,"
The Baulk,
Biggleswade.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1957.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I have the honour to present my fifteenth Annual Report upon the work carried out by your Public Health Inspectors.

I am pleased to be able to report considerable progress in the work of the Department, again with the minimum use of Statutory Authority.

Mr. C.R. Southgate resigned in April to take up an appointment with Southgate Borough Council, and he was succeeded in May by Mr. K.F. Keegan. Miss J. Bonfield terminated her appointment as Clerk in the Department upon her marriage, and fortunately Miss D. Anderson, who had been incapacitated for over 2 years as the result of a serious motor accident, was able to resume her duties as Shorthand Typist in September.

SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS.

Dwellinghouses inspected under the Public Health or Housing Act.....	851.
Re-inspections and visits to works in progress.....	873.
Visits to new buildings in course of erection.....	504.
Visits to Dairies and Milk Distributors.....	16.
Visits and inspections of food premises.....	109.
Visits re infectious disease.....	12.
Numbers of rooms fumigated after infectious disease.....	9.
Miscellaneous visits (including refuse collection and rodent control).....	2,642.

NOTICES SERVED.

87 Intimation Notices or letters in respect of 95 properties were sent, all of which were complied with, without the service of Statutory Notices.

HOUSING.

The general housing position continues to improve slowly, and no cases of legal overcrowding were recorded during the year. A number of poor living conditions were found, and as far as possible, such cases were given priority in the allocation of Council dwellings. 15 families living in houses included in the Council's 5 year Slum Clearance Programme were rehoused. 22 houses were demolished during the year.

A considerable amount of work was undertaken in connection with Improvement Grants. The position at the end of the year was as follows:-

Number of applications received	-	30
" " " approved	-	30
Value of work approved	-	£16,148. 0. od.

A Grant of 50% was paid in each case.

16 of the 30 premises improved were owner/occupied, and 14 were let to tenants.

Further work was undertaken by the Department under The Rent Act, 1957. 10 applications for Certificates of Disrepair.

NUISANCES.

All complaints of nuisances received during the year have been investigated and dealt with satisfactorily.

The following works were carried out during the year:-

Sanitary improvements (including
drainage work)..... 566⁺

Nuisances abated 37

⁺ Much of this work results from the coming into operation of the sewers in Shefford and Clifton, and is referred to elsewhere in this report.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

No cases of infestation were reported during the year.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

The supervision of food supplies continues to occupy a considerable amount of your Inspectors' time.

There are 10 licensed slaughter houses in the district - at one of which, an inspector is engaged whole time. Even so a considerable amount of overtime is necessary, involving work on Sundays.

Details of animals slaughtered, carcasses inspected and condemned, are given in the following table:-

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED, 1957.

	Cattle.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	3,615	376.	451	12,060	21,770
Number Inspected.	3,615	376	451	12,060	21,770
<u>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI.</u>					
Whole carcasses con- demned.	-	3	1	5	5
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	1,556	180	-	1,001	1,792
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticerci.	41.66	48.67	0.22	8.34	8.25
<u>Tuberculosis Only.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.	8	2	-	-	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	172	70	-	-	334
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	4.98	18.75	-	-	1.54

	Cattle.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and lambs.	Pigs.
<u>Cysticercosis.</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	21	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration.	21	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned.	-	-	-	-	1

The following weight of meat found to be unfit for human food, was as follows:-

	<u>Tons.</u>	<u>Cwts.</u>	<u>Qrs.</u>	<u>lbs.</u>
Beef.	4	-	-	6
Beef Offal.	11	3	3	16
Mutton	-	2	1	10
Mutton Offal	-	15	2	15
Pork	2	1	2	23
Pork Offal	2	6	-	16
Veal	-	1	3	23
Veal Offal	-	-	1	0
 TOTAL.	 20	 11	 3	 25

MILK.

During the year 16 dealer's licences were issued. The area is now a "specified milk area", and only Tuberculin Tested Milk can be sold in the raw state. All other milk has to be either pasteurized or sterilized.

ICE CREAM.

Only eight premises are registered for the manufacture and sale of ice cream, whilst 63 are registered for the sale of ice cream.

All premises have been maintained in a satisfactory condition.

OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED.

Regular visits have been paid to other food shops, and as a result, the following food has been found unfit for human consumption:-

9 lbs. of Cheese.
7 dozen Packets Cheese.
8 tins Corned Beef.
1 Stone Shrimps.
13 Packets Cream.
2 lbs. Sugar.
238 Tins Various Foodstuffs.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

This service which covered the whole of the area has continued satisfactorily throughout the year. The Council provide and maintain the vehicles, and labour is provided by contract.

Disposal is by controlled tipping at a disused gravel pit at Henlow. The acquisition of a Bristol 22 Angledozer has greatly facilitated this work, and has enabled the reclamation of a considerable area of land in a most satisfactory manner.

NIGHTSOIL REMOVAL AND CESSPOOL EMPTYING.

These functions continue to be satisfactorily discharged by the contractor with the three vehicles provided by the Council, in all parishes except Arlesey, Potton and Stotfold, which are sewered. With the coming into operation of the sewers in Clifton and Shefford, the work in these parishes will be considerably lessened, and the cost of this service reduced.

RODENT CONTROL.

The following table shows the number of properties inspected and treated by the Rodent Operator:-

	<u>Local</u> <u>Authority.</u>	<u>Dwelling-</u> <u>houses.</u>	<u>All others</u> <u>including</u> <u>business.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>
No. of properties inspected.	22	281	28	309
No. of properties inspected found to be infested.	22	181	16	197
No. of infested properties treated.	22	181	16	197

In addition to the above, test baiting of the Council's sewers was undertaken in Arlesey, Potton and Stotfold. Evidence of infestation was again found at Potton, and the necessary treatment carried out.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

The work of laying the sewers in Shefford and Clifton, and the construction of the disposal works at Langford was finally completed in April.

It involved the laying of approximately $7\frac{1}{4}$ miles of sewers; ranging in diameter from .6 to .15 inches at depths up to 18 feet, sometimes under most difficult circumstances. The total cost of the work was approximately £245,000. which from a public health point of view, was wisely spent in providing a service which was long overdue.

By the end of the year 248 applications for permission to connect to the sewers were received and approved, and 526 properties, (includes 332 Council Houses) actually connected. This naturally involved a vast amount of your inspector's time in meeting and advising owners and builders, and testing the drains when laid.

It is sincerely hoped that this scheme may be completed by the sewerage of Langford and Henlow in the very near future.

The old engines and pumps at Potton have had to be replaced during the year by a temporary electrically operated pump, pending the construction of a new pump house, the installation of permanent pumping units, and the laying of a new rising main from the disposal works to the sewage farm. This additional expense is unfortunate, but the original pumps and engines were nearly 50 years old, and it would have been quite uneconomical to have repaired them.

The works at Arlesey and Stotfold have again been maintained in a satisfactory condition throughout the year.

DITCHES.

During the year 369 chains of ditches have been cleansed at a total cost of £373. 15. 11d.

RAINFALL.

The following table shows the rainfall recorded at the Sewage Disposal Works:-

<u>MONTH.</u>	<u>ARLESEY.</u>		<u>STOTFOLD.</u>		<u>POTTON.</u>	
	<u>Rainfall.</u>	<u>Days.</u>	<u>Rainfall.</u>	<u>Days.</u>	<u>Rainfall.</u>	<u>Days.</u>
January.	0.91"	16	1.07"	15	1.38"	30
February.	2.40"	13	2.68"	14	2.56"	23
March.	0.79"	15	0.85"	13	1.72"	14
April.	0.21"	6	0.32"	6	0.47"	14
May.	1.01"	9	1.03"	9	1.12"	15
June.	1.33"	12	1.23"	12	1.69"	17
July.	2.37"	17	2.84"	15	2.68"	14
August.	2.11"	14	2.15"	14	2.21"	18
September.	2.39"	15	2.64"	17	2.89"	22
October.	1.82"	10	1.89"	10	1.74"	14
November.	1.43"	7	1.48"	7	1.51"	12
December.	1.01"	13	2.06"	14	2.27"	22
<u>Total.</u>	17.78"	147	20.24"	146	22.24"	230.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES.

ACT, 1937.

1. Inspection -

<u>Premises.</u>	<u>Number on Register.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>	<u>Number of written notices and Occupiers Prosecuted.</u>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	32	38	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i), in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	83	43	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	-	-	-
<u>Total</u>	115	81	-

2. Cases in which defects were found:-

	Number of cases in which defects were found.				No. of cases in which prosecution was instituted.
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Inspector.	
Want of cleanliness.	1	1	-	1	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature.	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors.	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences:-					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective.	1	1	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes.	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).	-	-	-	-	-
Total.	2	2	-	2	-

OUTWORK.Section 110.

Nature of Work.	No. of outworkers in August list required by Sec.110 () c.	No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council.	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists.	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises.
Glove making.	2	-	-	-
Wearing apparel.	4	-	-	-

Section 111.Notices served.

Nil.

Prosecutions.

Nil.

NEW BUILDINGS.

During the year 268 plans were submitted and approved, under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, and the Council's Building Byelaws.

21 other plans were submitted but not approved.

LICENCES TO DEAL IN GAME.

Visits and inspections	3
Number of licences granted	3

PETROLEUM ACTS.

Number of licences granted	93
Amount of fees received	£56. 15s. 0d.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Council, the Clerk and Medical Officer of Health, and their staffs for their consideration and support, and also to the staff of the Public Health Department for their loyal co-operation.

Your obedient servant,

H.W. PRIDMORE.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

